

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this amendment, claims 1, 2, 7-10, 15 and 17-21 have been amended to clearly delineate intended subject matter, and no claims have been added or cancelled. It is believed that these amendments do not narrow claim scope. Rather, in some cases, the claims are even broadened. Therefore, no prosecution history estoppel should result from these claim amendments.

In the Office Action, dated July 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and rejected claims 1-4, 15-17, 23-25 and 27 under obviousness-type nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,228.

Assignee has amended claims 8 and 9 to obviate the above-noted rejection. Assignee respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 9 now particularly point out and distinctly claim intended subject matter. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner the rejection to claims 8 and 9.

Although Assignee does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of claims 1-4, 15-17, 23-25 and 27, a terminal disclaimer of these claims is submitted with this amendment to remove the subject matter of claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,228 from being applied against presently claimed subject matter. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Dated: _____

12/14/05

Respectfully submitted,



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